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BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT

HEREFORDSHIRE

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JOINT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year

1960



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MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December, 1960)

* J. T. ARNETT	Stoke Lacy
* H. A. BAYLISS	Little Cowarne
* MAJOR M. A. BELLVILLE	(Vice-Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee, and Vice-Chairman of the Water Committee)			Tedstone Delamere
T. G. BEMAND	...	...	...	Grendon Bishop
* MISS D. A. BOUCHER	...	...	...	Cradley
* F. CALE	...	...	...	Cradley
* I. T. DAVIES	...	...	...	Linton
F. C. L. ESSENHIGH	...	...	...	Brockhampton
* REV. C. GREEN	...	...	...	Felton
S. B. GREEN	...	...	...	Whitbourne
W. E. GREENHOUGH	...	...	...	Thornbury with Hampton Charles
* O. H. M. HERFORD	...	...	...	Bredenbury
* CAPT. L. R. HIBBERT	(Chairman of the Water Committee)			Stanford Bishop
* H. C. C. HODGES	...	...	...	Avenbury
* J. F. HYDE	...	...	...	Ocle Pychard
* M. E. KANNREUTHER	...	...	...	Bishops Frome
* BRIGADIER S. S. LAVENDER	...	...	...	Wacton
S. LEIGHTON	...	...	...	Collington
* R. MAUND	...	...	...	Much Cowarne
* R. H. MESS	(Vice-Chairman of the Council)			Ullingswick
J. C. PAGE	...	...	...	Edvin Loach, Saltmarsh and Tedstone Wafre
* W. D. PORTER	...	...	...	Acton Beauchamp
* J. L. POWELL	(Chairman of the Housing and Health Committee)			Edwyn Ralph
COL. J. A. M. RICE-EVANS	...	...	...	Upper Sapey
* MISS M. SHEPHERD	...	...	...	Whitbourne
* D. J. THOMAS	...	...	...	Pencombe with Grendon Warren
* MRS. E. V. THOMAS	...	...	...	Norton
* J. H. WALLER	...	...	...	Winslow
* REV. W. G. WALTON	(Chairman of the Council)			Bishops Frome

* Members of the Housing and Health Committee.

Clerk to the Council—J. B. SENIOR, Solicitor.

Deputy Clerk to the Council—A. C. BISHOP.

G. D. K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

Leominster

(Telephone: Leominster 2049).

N. E. WORSALL, M.A.P.H.I.,

Public Health Inspector,

Council Offices,

Bromyard

(Telephone: Bromyard 3197).

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health:

C. A. PREECE.

Clerk to the Public Health Inspector:

MISS J. H. LANGSTON.

To the Chairman and Members of the Bromyard Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1960, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

Statistical Section.

In general, the figures for the District are comparable with those of England and Wales, the death rate, however, is well below the national figure when amended for population age structure.

Infectious Diseases

Very little infectious disease was notified during the year—the district escaping almost completely the epidemic of dysentery which prevailed throughout the rest of the northern part of the county.

Water and Drainage

With the continuation by the County Water Board of the Council's widespread water scheme, the Council has rightly turned to consider the drainage schemes necessary to deal with the increased effluents from dwelling houses when water becomes freely available.

Reports have been made by me to the Public Health Committee on various districts, and subsequently the Council has called for the preparation of plans to deal with the problems raised.

It will be some years yet before these schemes are all completed, but the necessary planning should proceed as quickly as possible so that the Council can prepare a long-range forecast of financial need.

The areas where it now appears that the provision of main sewerage is or will be essential are: Bredenbury, Bishops Frome, Pencombe, Linton, and Cradley, and there is a strong possibility that works may have to be provided at Whitbourne.

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. Worsdall for completing much of this report, and for his help in the past year.

G. D. K. NEEDHAM,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	61,114
Estimated mid-year home population	7,060
Average number of persons per acre ... ..	.11
Number of inhabited houses	2,265
Average number of inhabited houses per acre ... ..	.04
Average number of persons per house	3.12
Rateable Value	£32,750
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£121

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	56	63	119
Illegitimate	5	1	6
	—	—	—
	61	64	125
	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid year home population:

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D. (Crude)	17.7	13.5	16.4	16.8	16.1
Bromyard R.D. (Adjusted)	19.8	15.1	18.2	18.8	18.1
England and Wales	17.1	16.5	16.4	16.1	15.7

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent. of total live births:

Bromyard R.D.	4.8
England and Wales	5.4

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	—	2	2
	—	—	—

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D.	14.2	20.2	33.6	32.5	41.7
England and Wales	19.8	21.0	21.6	22.4	23.0

Total Live and Still Births

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	56	64	120
Illegitimate	...	5	2	7
		—	—	—
		61	66	127
		—	—	—

INFANT DEATH RATES

Early Neonatal Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
		—	—	—
		—	—	—

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	...	...	...	Nil
England and Wales	...	...	...	*

* Figure not yet available.

Neonatal Mortality

Death of Infants under 4 weeks old

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
		—	—	—
		—	—	—

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard R.D.	...	...	...	Nil
England and Wales	...	...	...	15.6

Perinatal Mortality

Still Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	—	1	1
		—	—	—
		—	2	2
		—	—	—

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	...	...	14.2
England and Wales	...	...	32.9

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

(including those under 4 weeks)

		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	—	—	—
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
		—	—	—
		—	—	—
		—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D.	Total	...	Nil	52.0	26.0	33.6
	Legitimate	...	Nil	52.6	28.5	33.6
	Illegitimate	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	200.0
England and Wales	Total	...	21.9	22.2	22.5	23.1
	Legitimate	...	*	21.9	22.3	22.8
	Illegitimate	...	*	27.4	27.8	30.0

* Figures not yet available.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths ... Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard R.D.	...	...	Nil
England and Wales	...	...	0.39

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes	42	38	80

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D. (Crude) ...	11.3	11.9	10.3	15.7	12.9
Bromyard R.D. (Adjusted) ...	8.8	10.2	7.9	11.8	9.6
England and Wales ...	11.5	11.6	11.7	11.5	11.7

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease ...	6	6	12

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D. ...	1.70	1.84	1.70	2.27	2.53
England and Wales ...	2.16	2.14	2.12	2.09	2.08

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease	18	18	36

Cardio Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D. ...	5.10	5.39	6.24	7.65	7.15
England and Wales ...	6.00	5.88	6.07	5.84	6.00

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis):

	Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease	7	5	12

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Bromyard R.D. ...	1.70	2.13	0.85	2.97	0.98
England and Wales ...	1.26	1.53	1.37	1.38	1.35

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease					Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	3	3	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	5	10	15
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	7	3	10
Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	5	2	7
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	7	5	12
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
TOTAL					42	38	80

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF BROMYARD DURING THE YEAR 1960

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	...	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	2	-	-	10
Measles	...	-	-	-	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Scarlet Fever	...	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Dysentery	...	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	...	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Pulmonary	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1960

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	...	5	1	—	—	5	3	6	16	25	4	1	70
Measles	...	—	2	3	123	52	8	—	—	—	1	—	189
Scarlet Fever	...	6	2	3	4	2	—	—	—	1	1	3	23
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	4
Acute Encephalitis:													
Infective	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Post-Infectious	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Pneumonia	...	3	1	4	5	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	18
Dysentery	...	—	—	18	14	24	29	30	6	2	—	—	123
Food Poisoning	...	1	—	4	2	9	8	—	—	2	7	6	39
Tuberculosis													
Pulmonary	...	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	1	7
Non-Pulmonary	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Comparative figures for previous years—Bromyard Rural District.

Disease			1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Whooping Cough	...	...	10	1	1	30	21
Measles	...	...	17	99	29	65	140
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	8	13	6	2
Erysipelas	...	...	—	2	—	2	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	—	2	5	8	2
Dysentery	...	...	5	3	9	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis:							
Pulmonary	...	...	1	1	—	4	2
Non Pulmonary	...	...	1	—	—	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis:							
Paralytic	...	...	—	—	—	1	—
Non-Paralytic	...	...	—	—	—	2	—

Comparative figures for previous years—North Herefordshire

Disease			1960	1959	1958	1957	1956
Whooping Cough	...	...	70	38	39	192	87
Measles	...	...	189	388	258	144	561
Scarlet Fever	...	...	23	46	28	71	42
Erysipelas	...	...	4	4	2	7	8
Acute Encephalitis:							
Infective	...	...	3	—	—	—	—
Post-Infectious	...	...	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	18	33	14	49	20
Dysentery	...	...	123	3	16	38	7
Food Poisoning	...	...	39	3	5	10	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	2	3	2
Tuberculosis:							
Pulmonary	...	...	7	13	7	33	19
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	3	2	3	4	6
Acute Poliomyelitis:							
Paralytic	...	...	—	—	—	12	1
Non-Paralytic	...	...	—	—	—	14	—

COMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease				North Here- fordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1.85	1.27
Measles	...	...	...	4.99	3.48
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.61	0.70
Erysipelas	...	...	...	0.11	0.06
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	...	...	...	0.08	0.0003
Post-Infectious	...	...	...	0.003	0.0002
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	0.47	0.32
Dysentery	...	...	...	3.24	0.94
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1.03	0.17
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	...	...	...	0.18	0.46
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	0.08	0.06

TUBERCULOSIS.

				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1959	...	...	...	21	19	9	7
New cases notified	...	...	...	1	1	—	1
Moved into district	...	...	...	—	2	—	—
Recovered	...	...	...	1	1	—	—
Died	...	...	...	1	—	—	—
Number on Register at 31st December, 1960	...	...	...	20	21	9	8

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1956	5	60	—	2
1957	5	64	—	1
1958	—	63	—	2
1959	—	56	1	3
1960	3	58	1	2

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946, Section 26

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Vaccination and Immunisation are a County Council responsibility, and the figures given below have been kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Numbers of children in the district who were immunised during the year:

Immunisation against	Age of child			Total	Reinforcing Injections
	Under 1	1-4	5-14		
Diphtheria	39	21	28	88	100
Whooping Cough ...	38	17	2	57	—
Diphtheria/Tetanus/ Whooping Cough ...	25	8	—	33	—

Numbers of children in the district who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year:

Vaccination against Smallpox	Age of child					Total	Revaccinations
	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-4	5-14	15 & over		
	93	3	—	2	1	99	8

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

During the year 62 samples of water were taken for examination, with the following results:—

1. Public Sources (i.e., Water Board and Local Authority)

		Satis.	Unsatis.	Total
Bacteriological	...	41	5	46
Chemical	... ..	—	—	—

2. Private Sources

Bacteriological	...	10	4	14
Chemical	... ..	—	2	2

Where bacteriological examination showed contamination, householders were advised to boil the water.

Dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains direct to houses

Parish		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Population (approx.)
Bishops Frome	... ..	41	—	185
Bredenbury	... ..	48	—	216
Cradley:				
Heathfields	... ..	—	2	9
Buryfields	... ..	29	—	141
Evesbatch	... ..	4	—	18
Fromes Hill	... ..	23	—	104
Ocle Pychard	... ..	15	—	68
Pencombe	... ..	—	8	36
Sparrington	... ..	10	—	45
Stanford Bishop	... ..	7	—	32
Stoke Lacy	... ..	10	—	45
Tedstone Delamere	... ..	7	—	32
Ullingswick	... ..	4	—	18
Upper Sapey	... ..	—	7	32
Whitbourne	... ..	—	9	41
Wolferlow	... ..	—	2	9
		198	28	1,031

Dwelling-houses supplied from public water mains by means of stand-pipes

No. of houses served (approx.)		Population (approx.)	
Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
12		48	

As can be seen from the foregoing tables, only some 200 houses are connected to satisfactory public mains. Approximately 900 houses have supplies from private sources of variable quantity, and the remainder (about 1,100) have no water inside the house. About a dozen are served by stand-pipes, but this number probably doubles in very dry weather. Indeed, many houses have joint wells, common catchment pits, rain water storage tanks and shallow wells with hand pumps. Carrying water is a common sight, and this is not confined to periods of drought. All these private supplies are of a doubtful quality.

The Herefordshire Water Board assumed its responsibilities on the 1st April. It is worth recording that during the year the Consulting Engineers received instructions to prepare for tender (a) for the first stage of the District Scheme and (b) for the supply to Upper Sapey, Wolferlow and part of Tedstone. Dare one hope too much for 1961? Is it possible that someone somewhere will think up something new to delay the start of the work? If not, work should begin in 1961 and from then onwards this figure of 200 dwellings will grow progressively and in course of time will give the statistical tables some practical meaning.

There is no indication that any waters are liable to plumbo-solvent action. Regular bacteriological examinations were made of water going into supply.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is no public swimming bath in the district.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Ministry of Agriculture return on pests is not printed on this occasion, because it presents no information at all which would assist a reader in understanding the action really taken by the Council against rats. The return avoids with masterly precision, all reference to the section where most work is done in Bromyard—contracting to kill.

The Council joined the Scheme operated for some years by the Rural Councils of Hereford, Ledbury and Ross, the object being to undertake as much contract work as possible parallel with the service provided by private contractors. It was felt that if a sufficient number of contracts could be secured, spread over the whole area, the problem of rats could be kept under constant review. Such a scheme has an added advantage that farmers in particular take a willing part in it and are not subject to formal inspection, as would have been the case if the Ministry's earlier ideas had been followed. There is, of course, the argument that we now kill, and not count rats.

An annual target of £400 was fixed and by the end of 1960 this had been reached; in fact could someone have been found to interview and negotiate with farmers, that figure would certainly have been exceeded.

Council properties such as refuse tips, sewage disposal works and housing estates, have had regular visits paid to them.

Acknowledgment should be made to the three constituent authorities and to their officers for the splendid spirit of co-operation they have shown.

HOUSING

Serious consideration was given during the year to the provision of old persons' bungalows (a) to meet a clear need for that type of accommodation and (b) to give a better "balance" as between existing types of dwellings. There was also the question whether larger dwellings should be provided for special purposes, in particular to accommodate staff at the Bromyard Secondary School due to open in April, 1961.

The provision of houses in any area is not usually a straightforward enterprise, and here the location of sites is much restricted by lack of mains water. However, the advent of the Water Board and the acceptance by that authority of the need to carry out the initial stage of the district scheme, made it possible for the Council to plan their housing programme more precisely.

Having settled the water question, the Council came to the conclusion that several of the present sites were not suitable by reason of their situation in relation to public transport, for old people's dwellings. Further there was the necessity to restrict capital expenditure per unit, to a level which would reflect a reasonable rental.

With these points in mind the decision was taken (a) to provide odd pairs of single bedroom bungalows on estates where land already owned by the Council was available, and (b) to promote a scheme of bungalows and houses within or near the Urban area of Bromyard. Alternative (a) was readily applicable to three or four sites and some building should be completed in 1961. Scheme (b) had by the close of 1960 received the blessing of the Urban Authority and the preliminary approval of the three land-

owners concerned. The merits of the Urban Scheme are two-fold. A few houses might well ease the general shortage engendered by the new School, while a block of O.P. Bungalows (say 14/16) would satisfy those living in semi-isolation in the rural area, who desire to retire to a dwelling of more modern design, situated near shops, church, public house and medical practitioner, and where the nearness of fellow beings, if not a warden, make up for the obvious difficulty of housing a good samaritan in times of illness in a single bedroom dwelling.

Much thought and time was given to the housing of the special types of families which, for one reason or another, cannot be housed in ordinary Council dwellings. Whenever vacant private property was brought to notice, enquiries were made as to its suitability and availability to the Council. One such family was housed and by December negotiations for the purchase of 3 more cottages were well advanced. This policy is not general in the County, but there is much to commend it.

The Council's progressive outlook towards improvement and standard grants was much in evidence and the results continued to be most gratifying. This aspect of the Council's housing policy is perhaps having the greatest impact on the public and the special Sub-Committee in particular, devoted many hours to this work. Figures to 31st December, 1960, are:

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

	1960 only.	Total to Dec., '60.
No. of houses in respect of which full applications were made	27	184
No. of houses in respect of which grants were offered	27	173
No. of houses in respect of which applications were refused or withdrawn ...	—	4
No. of houses in respect of which improvement works were completed ...	26	141
Total value of works approved for grant	£19,745 13s. 3d.	£116,592 10s. 4d.
Total grant offered in respect of above works ...	£8,546 0s. 0d.	£50,387 12s. 1d.

STANDARD GRANTS

No. of houses in respect of which application was made	...	...	6
No. of applications approved			6
No. of dwellings completed			6

Value of grant paid	...	£591 11s. 10d.
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Slum clearance received less of your Officer's time in 1960 than it ought to have done; perhaps this inactivity was in tune with the lack of Council building. In any event, the improvement to existing property with grant aid or otherwise, continued and is not really represented in the following figures:—

No. of houses subject to Time & Place Notices	...	12
No. of houses subject to Demolition Orders	... ..	5
No. of houses subject to Closing Orders	... ..	—
No. of houses on which Undertakings not to repair were accepted	... ..	7
No. of houses on which Undertakings to repair were accepted	... ..	—
above works	... ..	£8,546 0s. 0d. £50,387 12s. 1d.

NEW HOUSES

No. of Private Dwellings completed	... ..	4
No. of Private Dwellings in course of erection December, 1960	... ..	8

CATEGORY V POSITIONS

The position regarding category V houses is now:—

No. of houses in category V at the end of 1959	164
Deleted from all records	9
Placed in lower category	7
	—
	16
Total category V to be dealt with at end of 1950	148

SEWERAGE

Having regard to the lack of public water mains and to the comparative isolation of many houses, the arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal may be said to have been reasonably satisfactory. However, there are now distinct signs that sewerage schemes will become necessary at Bredenbury and Bishop's Frome, both of which have mains water, and in Pencombe, Whitbourne and Cradley, all of which are included in the first stage of the district water scheme.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The figures since 1953 are:—

		Mileage		Properties		Loads
1953	...	5560	...	16675	...	172
1954	...	6421	...	17371	...	182
1955	...	6487	...	18082	...	185
1956	...	7228	...	19591	...	202½
1957	...	7432½	...	19989	...	198
1958	...	7508	...	22758	...	243
1959	...	7957	...	23698	...	253½
1960	...	8036	...	23780	...	253

HOP PICKING ACCOMMODATION.

A summary of the 1960 position is given below:—

Summary

Total number of farms	...	...	...	...	69
Number of farms housing Pickers			...	...	24
Number of farms with local Pickers			...	...	45
Number of farms picking by hand only	...			...	26
Number of farms picking by machines only				...	44
Approximate number of Pickers housed 1960 (excluding travellers, gypsies and small children					467
Estimated Children	...	...	...	...	50
Estimated Travellers		...	...	...	70

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Food and Drugs Act

Number of Food Shops	...	...	...	29
Number of Public Houses	...	...	...	25
Number of Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream	22

(b) Slaughter of Animals

Number of licensed Slaughtermen	8
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SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Premises	Number on Register
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	1
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by L.A.	5
TOTAL ...	6

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Written Notices	...	...	...	Nil
Cases in which defects were found or remedied	...	...	...	Nil

Orphans Printing Press,
Church Street,
Leominster.

